

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LEONARDO AGRICOLA BISCARI FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Leonardo Agricola Biscari of Independence, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 865, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Leonardo will receive the Eagle Scout Award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 12, 2004, at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Independence, MO.

Leonardo has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Leonardo has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Leonardo Agricola Biscari for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HISPANIC RECOGNITION AWARDS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, the Hispanic Recognitions Awards Committee Incorporated in the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts will have its annual ceremony, giving awards to a number of individuals and organizations. The recipients of these awards, to be presented at 5 p.m. at New Bedford High School on September 16, have distinguished themselves by their dedication and energy on behalf of the Hispanic community in our area, and on behalf of the community as a whole. I congratulate Emilio E. Cruz for the work he has done in making this possible, and I wish to join Mr. Cruz and others in recognizing the important community service performed by these recipients.

The list of awards and those receiving them is as follows: Community Organization Award 2004—Catholic Social Services; Cultural Achievement Award 2004—Johnny Arellano; Youth Award 2004—Chayrel Adams; Health Awards 2004—Marta Gonzalez; Education Award 2004—Sara Rodriguez; Public Safety Award 2004—Jose A. Perez; Latino Organization Award 2004—Association Maya Kiche USA, Inc.; Community Service/Leadership Award 2004—Reverend Abraham Torres; The Rising Star Award 2004—Marilyn Vega.

RECOGNIZING JEREMIAH COOMES FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremiah Coomes of Smithville, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 447, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Jeremiah will receive the Eagle Scout Award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 19, 2004 at River of Life Church in Kansas City, MO.

Jeremiah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeremiah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremiah Coomes for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, three years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we solemnly remember those who risked their lives, those whose lives were lost and those they left behind.

America changed forever that day. Some called 9-11 America's wake up call.

The actions of first responders and everyday citizens give true meaning to the word hero. I applaud the resolution in the House today for honoring their service and the memories of those no longer with us.

But sadly, Mr. Speaker, I must tell you that this resolution is flawed. While it rightfully honors the victims and heroes of September 11, it misleadingly connects the invasion of Iraq with the war on terrorism. Iraq did not start the U.S. global war on terrorism—Osama bin Laden did.

Despite that fact, after only four months of hunting for bin Laden, the U.S. began redirecting military and intelligence personnel from his pursuit in Afghanistan to preparing for war with Iraq.

The President then declared in a press conference that, "I don't know where [bin Laden]

is. You know, I just don't spend that much time on him . . . I truly am not that concerned about him."

The President was clearly at odds with his terrorism advisers.

The FBI was concerned about him. It said that al-Qaeda remained the "number one concern."

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge was concerned about him. He said America was still bin Laden's number 1 target.

Despite all this, what did the President do?

He shortchanged homeland security needs like port, rail and border security. He reduced law enforcement funding by over 30 percent. And he became less concerned with the man who started the war on terrorism and more concerned with Saddam Hussein—a man the 9-11 Commission determined had no operational connection to al Qaeda and who played no role in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Did this make America any safer? If so, redirecting resources from hunting the world's number one terrorist in order to invade Iraq might have made sense. But the fact is, the invasion in Iraq has made us less, not more, secure.

And because of that fact, we do ourselves as a country and the memories of those who were lost on September 11, 2001 a great disservice by misrepresenting the facts.

The invasion of Iraq did not deny terrorists a safe haven from which to operate, but rather it created one. In fact, because of poor planning and inadequate troop levels, U.S. forces in Iraq have withdrawn from unstable areas like Falluja, Ramadi and Samarra allowing them to become foreign terrorist safehavens. The low troop level has also prevented the U.S. from sealing off the borders and allowed foreign terrorists to enter Iraq at will.

More American Service members have been killed since the President announced that all major combat operations had ended than before that time. All told, over 1,000 soldiers have been killed, 7,000 wounded, and the rate at which American soldiers are being killed is rapidly increasing.

With all that said, the President still speaks of "taking the fight to the enemy" so that we don't have to fight him at home. But the Department of Homeland Security had to raise the terrorist alert level four times since the invasion of Iraq. And Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has said, "[al Qaeda] is still determined to strike."

The Bush Administration would still lead us to believe that al Qaeda is no longer a threat because two thirds of its senior leadership have been captured or killed. But Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld says "it's almost impossible to have metrics" that determine whether Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups are being drained of support around the world. In fact some experts still put al Qaeda's end strength at close to 18,000.

Secretary Rumsfeld went on to say that the War on Terrorism is not "a military problem alone." In fact the overreliance on military

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